

# INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC

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## 1.1. Simple Statements

e.g. 'The Rose is red.' 'Socrates is a man.'

## 1.2. Compound Statements

e.g. 'Ram goes to Kolkata and Shyam goes to Patna.'

## 1.3. Conjunction: 'and' 'but' etc.

Conjuncts: 'Ram goes to Kolkata.' 'Shyam goes to Patna.'

Conjunctions: 'and' 'but' 'although', etc.

**Symbol:** '·'

Symbolic Representation:  $p \cdot q$  means ' $p$  and  $q$ '

### Truth Table

$p$	$q$	$p \cdot q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	F
F	F	F

**Conclusion:** If a conjunction is true then all of its conjuncts are necessarily true.

## 1.4. Negative Statements: 'not'

e.g. 'Ram is not rich.' 'It is not true that Ram is rich.'

Explanation: It is the negation of the statement: 'Ram is rich.'

**Symbol:** ' ~ ' The Tilde or curl

Symbolic Representation:  $\sim p$  means 'not  $p$ '

$\sim$  (Ram is rich)

### Truth Table

$p$	$\sim p$
T	F
F	T

## 1.5 Disjunction: 'either-or'

### Weak or Inclusive

e.g. 'Either Ram is a fool or is evil.'

In a weak disjunctive statement either or both of the disjuncts can be true.

*At least one of the disjuncts is true, but both can be true.*

### Strong or Exclusive

e.g. 'Either this rose is red or it is yellow.'

In a strong disjunctive statement only one of the disjuncts can be true.  
*At least one of the disjuncts is true, both both cannot be true.*

**Symbol: ‘ $\vee$ ’ The Vel or wedge**

Symbolic Representation: ‘ $p \vee q$ ’ means ‘Either  $p$  or  $q$ ’

**Truth Table**

$p$	$q$	$p \vee q$
T	T	T
T	F	T
F	T	T
F	F	F

**Negation of Disjunction: ‘neither-nor’**

e.g. ‘Neither Mohan nor Shyam will do this work.’

Representation:  $\sim(A \vee B)$  or  $\sim A \cdot \sim B$

Use of the word ‘both’:

1. Ram and Shyam will *not both* do this. Rep:  $\sim(A \cdot B)$
2. Ram and Shyam will *both not* do this. Rep:  $(\sim A) \cdot (\sim B)$

Use of the words ‘unless, until’:

‘He will pass unless he falls ill’ means ‘Either he falls ill or he will pass.’

Rep: ‘ $I \vee P$ ’ ( $I$  = ill;  $P$  = pass)

If  $A$  and  $B$  are true propositions and  $X$  and  $Y$  are false propositions, then

$\sim[(\sim A \vee X) \vee \sim(B \cdot Y)]$  is the truth-value

Because  $B$  is true and  $Y$  is false, ‘ $B \cdot Y$ ’ is false and  $\sim(B \cdot Y)$  is true;

because  $A$  is true and  $X$  is false, ‘ $\sim A \vee X$ ’ is false and  $\sim(\sim A \vee X)$  is true.

**1.6. Conditional Statements (Hypothetical): ‘If...then’**

e.g. ‘If you study, then you will pass.’

‘You study’ is the antecedent and ‘you pass’ is the consequent.

- Rules:
- (1) If the antecedent is true then the consequent is also true.
  - (2) If the consequent is false then the antecedent is also false.
  - (3) If the antecedent is false then the consequent may or may not be false.
  - (4) If the consequent is true then the antecedent may or may not be true.

**Symbol: ‘ $\supset$ ’ The horse-shoe; represents the word ‘entails’**

Symbolic Representation: ‘ $p \supset q$ ’ means ‘ $p$  entails  $q$ ’

‘ $p \supset q$ ’ = ‘ $\sim(p \cdot \sim q)$ ’

Truth Table

$p$	$q$	$\sim q$	$p \cdot \sim q$	$\sim(p \cdot \sim q)$	$p \supset q$
T	T	F	F	T	T
T	F	T	T	F	F
F	T	F	F	T	T
F	F	T	F	T	T